

NSC BRIEFING

9 May 1956

BLOC EQUIPMENT FAILURES IN EGYPT

1. Egyptian difficulties with Bloc aircraft, tanks and equipment--

[redacted] are primarily chargeable to maintenance, rather than any general qualitative deficiency in the materiel being supplied by the Bloc. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

2. Egyptian Air Force officers profess to be entirely satisfied with the Bloc aircraft and claim that plentiful spare parts have accompanied the MIG-15s. Although tight Egyptian security measures have prevented our confirmation of these reported crashes, we have received the following:

a. [redacted] Air Attache at the end of February that six MIG-15s had crashed up to that time. [redacted]

25X6

25X1

25X1

b. A report in early May [redacted] by our Naval Attache in Cairo [redacted] claimed that 9 MIGs had crashed at Cairo's Almaza airfield, and 3 or 4 more in the desert, because of poor maintenance and pilot error.

25X1

25X1

25X6

Bloc

25X1

25X6

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

d. In this connection, the bulk of evidence indicates that Bloc deliveries to the Egyptians consisted of new, late-model MIG-15 aircraft, from [redacted] factory in Czechoslovakia which still produces such aircraft.

3. In addition to these reported crashes, the Egyptians are also said to be experiencing difficulty with IL-28 radar bombing equipment.

[redacted] our Air Attache in Cairo claims that difficulty in target identification by radar recently resulted in bombs dropping dangerously close to an Egyptian rocket-testing installation, 3 1/4 mi. away from the bombing range south of Cairo.

4. Egyptian Army officials made claims similar to their Air Colleagues--that, is, that there are no difficulties in operating and maintaining Bloc ground equipment. However, we have proof that this official claim is not completely accurate: [redacted]

5. An above-average number of accidents and breakdowns is to be expected during the hasty Egyptian assimilation of large quantities of Bloc equipment, particularly in view of limited Egyptian experience. Limited Egyptian logistical capabilities and maintenance standards [redacted]

may well result in an increasing rate of attrition with the passage of time. Any serious Egyptian difficulty with Bloc equipment probably will be blamed on the supplier, regardless of the fundamental cause.

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